

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The current showings at the Museum of Modern Art: Drawings of the War in Spain by Luis Quintanilla, Furniture and Architecture by Alvar Aalto, and the gallery of paintings from the Museum's Permanent Collection will close Monday evening, April 18, at six o'clock. The Museum will then remain closed to the public until Wednesday morning, April 27, when Masters of Popular Painting, an Exhibition of Modern Primitives of Europe and America, will open. A private preview for members of the Museum will be held Tuesday evening, April 26, from nine o'clock until midnight.

Masters of Popular Painting will be the largest exhibition of the Museum's 1937-38 season. It will fill all the galleries of the Museum's present home at 14 West 49 Street and will include about one hundred and fifty paintings by European and American self-taught artists. The European section of the exhibition has been organized under the direction of M. Andry-Farcy, Conservator of the Museum of Grenoble, France. Many of the European paintings were shown in the very successful French exhibition, Maitres Populaires, which the Grenoble Museum held in Paris during the World's Fair last summer.

In connection with the exhibition the Museum will publish one of the largest and most comprehensive catalogs it has ever issued. It will contain not only illustrations of the works shown in the exhibition but a biography of each painter represented. Essays by Jean Cassou, Maximilien Gauthier, Holger Cahill and Dorothy Miller are a feature of the catalog.

In the preface Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum of Modern Art, writes:

"Popular or folk art has always existed and during the past century it has been given increasing attention. But it is only since the apotheosis of Henri Rousseau that individual popular artists have been taken seriously.

"The purpose of this exhibition is to show, without apology or condescension, the paintings of some of these individuals, not as folk art, but as the work of painters of marked talent and consistently distinct personality. As a consequence of this program the vast body of anonymous 'folk paintings' has not been represented at all."

The exhibition will remain open to the public until the end of June. Among the artists whose works will be shown are: Europeans: Henri Rousseau, Bauchant, Bombois, Séraphine, Vivin; Americans: John Kane, Edward Hicks, Joseph Pickett, Thorvald Arenst Hoyer, and others.